

Business Notices.

SPRING DRY GOODS.

Are now prepared to offer their Spring assortment of French and English Dry Goods, many styles of which are new and elegant. All of which will be sold at the lowest market rates.

NEARLY IMPORTANT TO BANKERS.—It is an established fact that the BANK OF NEW YORK & CO. has been the victim of a large number of swindlers, who have been able to obtain credit from the bank, and to draw out large sums of money, and to use the same for their own purposes. The bank has been obliged to pay out large sums of money, and to close its doors, and to declare itself bankrupt. The result has been a great loss to the bank, and a great injury to the public. It is therefore of great importance to the public, that the bank should be reformed, and that the swindlers should be punished. The following are the names of the swindlers who have been the victims of the bank:

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CULBERT BROTHERS, No. 136 Canal-st., are selling GOLD PATENT LAYER WATCHES from \$6.00 to \$10.00; CHRONOMETERS, \$12.00 to \$25.00; ANGLERS, \$2.00 to \$7.00; LAYERS, \$2.00 to \$5.00. SILVER WATCHES at all prices, from \$5.00 to \$50.00.

New-York Daily Tribune.

MONDAY, APRIL 21, 1856.

In consequence of the enormous mass of copies now printed on the NEW-YORK TRIBUNE, we are compelled to request our readers to send in their advertisements by to-morrow noon, in order to secure their insertion in this week's issue.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS. What is intended for insertion must be authenticated by the name and address of the writer—not necessarily for publication, but as a guarantee of his good faith. We cannot undertake to return rejected communications.

Republican Documents.

A Presidential Campaign of unusual significance is about to open—one of which the result must go far to determine whether Liberty or Slavery is to be the polestar of our National career. Whether the vast unpopulated regions confided by Providence to our keeping shall be subdued and cultivated by intelligent, happy farmers, or by blighted and blinded slaves. It is most important that the true bearings of this contest be set forth and discussed, not in the heat of the struggle, after every eye shall have been turned to the popular mind is measurably calm and unprejudiced. In view of these considerations the Republican Association in Washington City have issued, and will continue from time to time to publish, the most important Speeches and Essays which have appeared and shall appear on the side of Free Labor and Human Rights, which they trust those who love the Republic can well purchase for gratuitous circulation among their friends and neighbors with an eye to the struggle before us. These Speeches and Treats will be kept for sale at THE TRIBUNE office, in New-York, at the original prices.

Cash orders, by mail or otherwise, are solicited from clubs or individuals. Those who are in doubt as to what will be best should procure specimens at first, and thereafter judge. Among the documents already for sale are:

Price Per 100, Gov. SEWARD'S GREAT SPEECH ON THE INDIAN DIETARY ADDRESS BY KANSAS..... 25c. \$1 25
HENRY WILSON'S SPEECH ON KANSAS..... 20 1 25
JOHN P. HALE'S SPEECH ON KANSAS..... 20 1 25
SEWARD'S ALBANY AND BUFFALO SPEECHES..... 20 1 25
BURNER'S FAREWELL HALL SPEECH..... 20 1 25
SEWARD'S PLYMOUTH ORATION..... 20 1 25
REPUBLICAN ADDRESS (German)..... 20 1 25
OFFICIAL PROCEEDINGS PITTSBURGH CONVENTION..... 50 3 00
FOOT'S REASONS FOR JOINING REPUBLICAN PARTY 18 60
BURNER'S LETTERS TO REPUBLICAN ASSOCIATION 10 60
THE ONE PATH..... 10 60
SPIRITUAL LIBERTY..... 10 60
COLLIER'S SPEECH ON KANSAS..... 20 1 25
WILSON'S SPEECH ON KANSAS..... 20 1 25
HARLAN'S SPEECH ON KANSAS..... 20 1 25
Address GREELEY & McCLATHY, Tribune Office, New-York.

The Tribune for California.

We issue THIS MORNING THE TRIBUNE for California, Oregon and the Sandwich Islands. It contains a summary of all the Latest Foreign and Domestic News since the last numbers; Money and Market Reports, Marriages, Deaths, &c. The United States Mail Steamship George Law, for Aspinwall, will leave this afternoon at 2 o'clock.

The Mail for California and other parts of the Pacific will close at 1 o'clock p. m.

Single copies in wrappers ready for mailing can be had at the counter in the publication office this morning. Price 6 cents.

The weather yesterday was cold and dismal, a bleak rain storm lasting from midnight of Saturday with little intermission to the corresponding hour last night. At Albany there was a fall of snow; at Baltimore a cold rain.

The news brought by the Africa from Europe contains no fact of very great importance. The rejoicings at the conclusion of Peace are general and hearty in France. Paris was illuminated on the occasion as it had not been for years, even the most obstinate Legitimists and Orleansists joining in the display. Mr. Buchanan was at Paris, where it is said that the very first visit he paid was to Mr. James Gordon Bennett of New-York. At St. Petersburg peace was proclaimed on the 1st inst., the imperial manifesto declaring that the object for which Russia had urged the war was now attained in the guaranty, by the treaty of peace, of the rights of Christians in the East. According to this view of the case Russia has gained everything she sought in the war; the Czar however makes no allusion to the losses and humiliations she has suffered in achieving that immense result. It is rumored that the Russian monarch will presently visit France and England, and that a squadron is being got ready to transport him. This is altogether unlikely.

In England there is no general satisfaction at the peace; some classes are glad to have it, but the country at large would rather have fought on in the hope of retrieving England's lost prestige. The military commission to inquire into the results of the former inquiry into the misconduct of certain aristocratic Irishmen has commenced its sittings. In Ireland Archbishop McHale, of Tuam, an eminent Catholic priest, is dead, at the age of 74. The death of Mr. Justice Torrens has afforded an opportunity for the elevation to the Bench of Mr. Keogh, the Irish Attorney-General. Mr. Keogh is a man of vast mental ability, which is checked however by habitual indolence and self-indulgence, and no conscience whatever. A career of unscrupulous political intrigue has brought him to a comparatively early age, for he is still a young man, to a most respectable position. Possibly he may make a good Judge—in criminal cases he ought to be an excellent one.

The Austrian budget exhibits a deficit for the year 1855 equivalent, in round numbers, to \$67,000,000, of which some \$50,000,000 is due to extraordinary expenses for war purposes. This deficit is about \$500,000 less than that of 1854. Not a very cheering state of finances.

PRESIDENTIAL.

We are in receipt of sundry letters, inquiring what claims this or that personage may or can have to the Republican nomination for the Presidency. These inquiries seem pervaded by a common presumption that the Republicans have but to indicate their first choice in the nomination, and it will be successful, of course.

We regard this whole matter from a different standpoint. The contest which opens before us appears to us at once arduous in its character, momentous in its consequences, and dubious in its result. We hope for success in it; but that success can only be secured by wisdom, by conciliation in the choice of a standard-bearer, and by the most entire and hearty surrender of personal preferences to the good of the cause. The only man who, in our view, can have any claims to the support of the Republicans is he who, being devoted to the good work of making Kansas a Free State, shall seem likely to concentrate more strength and obtain more electoral votes than any other. Show us that any man who is heartily with us in the Kansas struggle can obtain the electoral vote of Pennsylvania and New-Jersey, Indiana and Illinois,

and we will favorably consider his claims to the nomination; but to talk of nominating a man only because we should prefer him as President, without considering what vote he can probably obtain, or how he is to be elected, is sheer lunacy.

The great issue of Slavery Extension is now to be decided. Let Kansas be admitted as a Free State, and there will never be a Slave State organized west or north of her; and Slavery can only extend its dominion through Texas toward the South-West. Let Kansas be enslaved, and Utah, New-Mexico, and the new State to be formed in the rich mining region of the Gila, will follow in its train. Let the friends of Free Kansas triumph in the Presidential contest, and the game of the Border Ruffians is blocked ever more. Even Missouri will repudiate and suppress them. But with a President elected by their exertions and votes, with Virginia, the Carolinas, Alabama and Georgia at his back, we should still struggle and plead for Free Kansas, but it would be the pleading of the vanquished—the struggle of despair. Men who agree with us on the main point: we must not lose this contest if it be possible to win it; and to this end we must, in selecting candidates, inquire first by what sign we can conquer.

A WORD WITH MERCHANTS. That the importations of the present season have been enormously in excess of the actual wants of the country—still further in excess of its means of payment—we presume nobody doubts. To import half a million dollars' worth of European fabrics and sell them in a trice at ten to twenty per cent. profit, seems so ready and easy a way to a block of warehouses in fee and a palace on the Fifth Avenue, that few men who have the clues in their hands can resist the temptation to use them. Especially to the merchant of small capital and limited capacity and prospects, does this temptation address itself. If the speculation prove unlucky, it can only break him, and that will leave him nearly as much property as he ever had, with enlarged experience and business acquaintance. We are within the truth in computing our importations of Dry Goods at forty per cent. more than they would be if governed by an enlightened regard for the actual wants and lasting good of the country.

Our National Imports since the year began must have exceeded One Hundred Millions in value, which, for three months and a half, is a pretty smart business. Meantime our Exports have fallen largely below that amount, though our chief staples come freshly into market and are sent forward at this season. Our Exports are invoiced at their full value, being received by the nations to which we send them, either free or under specific duties, which proffer no temptation to undervalue; while our Imports are subject to Ad Valorem imposts, which impel a swearing down of the value of each package to the lowest possible figure. We believe that One Hundred and Twenty-five Millions' worth of Exports, as entered on our Customs-house books, will not have cost so much as One Hundred Millions' worth of Imports, as inscribed on those same books. And then we have to pay not less than Twenty Millions per annum for interest on our Stocks, Bonds, and other evidences of indebtedness held in Europe.

What has been has been. The goods we have ordered and bought must be paid for, so far as the buyers shall be able; but the orders for the Fall trade have not yet gone forward, and we write in the hope of exerting some influence on them. They ought not to be half so large as those which went out for the Spring Trade, for these among other reasons:

Our markets are now glutted with Foreign Fabrics, many of which must be sold at a loss. The foolish and inconsiderate will continue to buy enormously under the impulse of the Spring business; and, if the wise and far-seeing will but hold off, they can buy all they will need cheaper in New-York auction-rooms than they can in the warehouses of Paris, Manchester or Lyons. This game of importing Two Millions' worth for every Million sent abroad must always bring up somewhere—one may be able to say exactly where or when, but the end must come. Going in debt is an easy and delightful process; it makes business brisk, money plentiful, and living generous; but at last the creditor sends in his little bill, and the results are stagnation, revulsion, hard times and hard fare.

Our farmers have for two years sold their Wheat at \$1.50 to \$2.25 per bushel, Indian Corn at 50c. to \$1.00, Pork at 5c. to 6c. 50 per pound, Butter at 20c. to 25c. per lb., Cheese at 10c. to 12c., and other products in proportion. They have run in debt for more lands, sent their sons to college, and bought pianos for their daughters, on the strength of these generous prices. Now we have Peace in Europe, with a return of hundreds of thousands from casting shells and making cartridges, exploding mines and burning each others' depots of provisions, to productive labor and money-making. The prospect is fair for a bountiful season on either continent; but if it be not such, our ability to pay for goods will be still further contracted. Either our farmers will not have half so much to sell from this year's product as they had from the last, or they must sell it at a reduction of thirty to sixty per cent. from last Fall's prices. Out of the proceeds, taxes, interest on loans or mortgages, doctors' bills, &c., must be paid without abatement, leaving the residue applicable to store-bills less than half that of last year. If, in view of these facts, our importers, jobbers and country merchants see fit to force into the country anything like the amount of goods for the Fall Trade that they have done for the Spring, they may possibly be sold, but they will never be paid for. The farming class can only pay what they have, and it is sheer madness to expect more. Hailing at the delinquent as dishonest will be only waste of breath.

Shall these considerations be heeded? MEXICAN AFFAIRS.

It is a circumstance worthy of note in the history of the Spanish American States, that very much in proportion to the unequal distribution of property which existed in them when they separated from the mother country and took on the republican form of administration have been the difficulties they have encountered in realizing the practical benefits of that form of government. Mexico and Peru were the two Spanish viceroys in which the most violent contrasts existed between a few proprietors of vast estates and immense wealth, and the great body of the inhabitants not only poor, but in a condition of dependence on these great proprietors hardly rising above that of personal servitude; while the very narrow limits within which the industry of trade and manufactures was confined gave but very small scope for the rise of a middle class between these two extremes. And how unfavorable such a social condition was to the success of the experiment of republicanism and self-government is evinced by the fact that these are the two portions of Spanish America in which civil wars and internal commotions have been most violent and most frequent—so much so as to have constituted for nearly forty years past the chronic condition of those unhappy and unfortunate countries.

Now have these civil wars been to any considerable extent a contest of opposite principles or ideas in religion or politics, or even a struggle of castes—for which latter conflict the elements of the population, in which the old Aborigine stock greatly predominates, would seem to be concerned, over the Spanish engraftment, would seem to afford ample occasion—they have been for the most part selfish and personal struggles between rival chiefs, who have contended for the honor of being at the head of affairs with a zeal very much out of proportion to any apparent glory or profit to be derived from it. It is true that the Mexican ecclesiastics have often been greatly mixed up in the civil commotions of that country—as in the recent affair of the revolt of Puebla, which has just been suppressed—but this has been not so much in their character of ecclesiastics as in that of great proprietors, anxious to have a share in the administration of public affairs proportionate to their wealth and territorial importance, and especially anxious to shield their property from being seized upon by more successful rivals.

The amount of the property belonging to the Mexican clergy, like everything else relating to the wealth of that country, is a good deal exaggerated by the popular imagination, which all the experience of the Mexican war has not yet been able to disabuse them of the error of estimating the wealth of that country by the nature of its principal product for export—which is silver—rather than by the total amount of all its products. Yet, what ever exaggerations there may be as to the absolute value of the Mexican church estates, there can be no doubt that they bear a very large proportion to the entire wealth of the state. This circumstance alone, according to a law of universal application, would lead the possessors of such a mass of property to take an active part in the politics of the country; but the Mexican clergy have an additional and still stronger call for engaging in politics, and that is the existence of a party in the state which regards the secularization of the ecclesiastical estates as essential at once to the economical and political regeneration of the country, and the probability that any administration over which they did not exercise a direct and potent influence, or with which, at least, they did not have a good understanding, would fall in with the views of this party and attempt to put its schemes into execution.

In several respects there is a striking analogy between the relations of the Mexican clergy to Mexican politics, and the relations of our Southern slaveholders to our politics. Both are a comparatively small body, holding a large amount of property; both stand in deadly terror—the Mexican clergy of the radical party which advocates the secularization of the church estates, the Southern slaveholders of the Abolitionists; both believe that their only salvation is in keeping up an absolute control over their respective National Governments; both are ultra-conservative in their political and social ideas, and violently opposed to all innovations; both are indignant at the idea that anybody should presume to discuss their claims, or question their rights. The Mexican clergy have generally found support and vindication of their claims in the standing army, which is another of the institutions of Mexico of a not less questionable character so far as the welfare and progress of the country is concerned, than the church itself; while our slaveholders have found a no less certain reliance on our great standing army of federal officeholders, whose principal chiefs have espoused their quarrels and cultivated their favor, doubtless from much the same selfish motives that brought Santa